

U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/534,207  
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Claim 8. (New) The method of forming a carbon layer by vapor phase deposition according to claim 3, wherein the carbon layer is formed directly on top of a lower protective layer such that the thermal head has a protective coating, and wherein the carbon layer and the lower protective layer are successively formed on the thermal head under a continuous vacuum.